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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 20 | Humidity 90% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 81,306 | Nifty 24,870 | Gold 1,00,371 | Silver 1,16,078 | Dollar 87.25 | Euro 102.32 | GBP 118.16

SCAN & PAY

K'taka driving digital payments as it remains number 2 in country in terms of UPI transactions

PAGE 2

TRAPPED IN A WEB

Cybercriminals exploit city's tech-savvy population, stealing ₹4.37 lakh every hour using 'digital arrests'

PAGE 5

This year's heavy rain claimed at least 4 lives, injured scores, damaged 1,114 homes in city — South Zone came off as worst-affected; roads stretching up to 343 km took a hit too

HARD RAIN FALLING

Cause of ruin: Construction in flood-prone areas, inadequate stormwater drains

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Prolonged spells of heavy rain have battered the city, leaving behind a grim trail of human casualties, widespread damage to homes, and crippling road infrastructure across multiple zones. Official records paint a stark picture of the extent of devastation, highlighting which areas bore the brunt and to what degree.

The downpour has claimed at least four lives and left over a dozen people injured in rain-related incidents. The South Zone emerged as the most affected in terms of fatalities, with Basavanagudi reporting two deaths and BTM Layout one. Jayanagar also witnessed multiple injury cases.

According to the data presented in the Legislative Assembly recently, the East Zone, Shivajinagar recorded three injuries across separate incidents, while Sarvagna Nagar reported two. CV Raman Nagar and RR Nagar each reported one casualty. Authorities attribute most fatalities to wall collapses, electrocution, and accidents triggered by flooding and poor visibility during heavy showers.

> **"The hardest-hit areas overlap with known flood-prone maps, indicating that preventive measures have either not been implemented or have failed to withstand the intensity of recent rains**
>
> —Urban planning expert

Over 1,100 homes damaged

The rains have left 1,114 homes damaged citywide, with varying degrees of destruction. The South Zone leads the count with 358 houses affected, many of them in low-lying localities where stormwater drains overflowed into residential streets. The East Zone follows closely with 320 damaged houses, particularly in older neighbourhoods where drainage networks failed to cope with the deluge.

Mahadevapura (126 houses) and RR Nagar (166 houses) also reported significant structural

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Into the wild void

Dismal conviction rate in wildlife crimes baffles activists; even offences related to tigers not being pursued

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Karnataka's abysmal conviction rate in wildlife offences has become a matter of concern for wildlife conservationists and activists. They say it is baffling that even crimes related to tigers are being trivialised in the state. Between 2020 and 2025, Karnataka recorded 13 confirmed cases of unnatural deaths of tigers.

However, while no convictions have happened in any of these cases, no arrests have been made in four out of the 13 cases. Moreover, in three cases of unnatural deaths of tigers, no enquiry reports and charge sheets have been filed so far.

Conservationists say these statistics indicate that the state forest department is not taking wildlife conservation seriously. There is a lack of evidentiary control in handling wildlife crime.

Experts underline that in case of any crime, including wildlife-related crime, gathering material and circumstantial evidence becomes vital. The state forest department has been failing at this level constantly.

"There are no protocols in place to secure the crime scene or evidence recording procedure. Moreover, the department has been slack in following the procedure. This is evident from the fact that in

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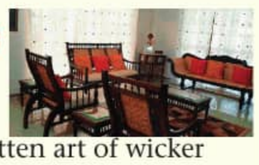
THINGS TO DO

01 Unique antique



Antique Home Decor is conducting an Exhibition to revive and promote the forgotten art of wicker cane weaving. The products on display include rare sofa sets in Teak and Rosewood, coffee tables, side stands, cabinets, chairs and a lot more of varieties of furniture with inlay of Wicker cane weaving. **When: Till September 10; Where: #1, UmaShankar Avenue Opp Carmel Teresa School, Hagadhur Road, Whitefield, Bengaluru**

02 For folk

National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru, in collaboration with South Zone Cultural Centre (Govt of India, Ministry of Culture) is organising a cultural programme. One of this is a Kodava folk dance performance by Peenya Dasarahalli Kodava Samaja, led by Shri Amit Bheemaiah (Bolak aat, Kathi aar, Koal aat, Pareya Kali, Ummath aat, Baalo paat, and Thali paat). **When: August 30, 7 pm Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, # 49, Manikyavelu Mansion, Palace Road**

03 Play of illusions

SmaranniK is staging new play 'Drishtikanya', a comedy of Illusions inspired from Daphne du Maurier's "The Blue Lenses". Direction: Sayandeb Bhattacharya. Tickets are available at bookmyshow. **When: August 30, 3.20 pm & 7.30 pm; Where: Ranga Shankara (JP Nagar 2nd phase). On: 30th Aug (Sat), 3:30 PM & 7:30 PM. Tickets: Rs.350**

04 On canvas

The vibrant artistic traditions of Bengal will come alive in the upcoming exhibition "Canvas of Soul: Voices of Bengal". The exhibition will feature the works of four eminent artists from West Bengal—Samir Karmakar, Sharmishtha Ghosh Sen, Ishita Sultana, and Kanchan Mistry—whose distinct narratives reflect the depth and diversity of Bengal's artistic spirit. **When: Till August 31 Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Gallery 1**

05 Visual treat

Medley 3 is the third collaborative art exhibition of three self-taught artists - Atoshi Shyam, Arun KT and Deepak Joshi. Each has a different aesthetic, a different style, a different colour palette. **When: Till August 31; 11 am to 7 pm; Where: Alliance Francaise, Thimmaiah Road, Opp UNI, Kaverappa Layout, Vasant Nagar**

Cash nor card, K'taka prefers to pay by UPI

State is number 2 in country when it comes to UPI transactions; groceries, supermarkets largest drivers of this payment mode; fast food joints follow

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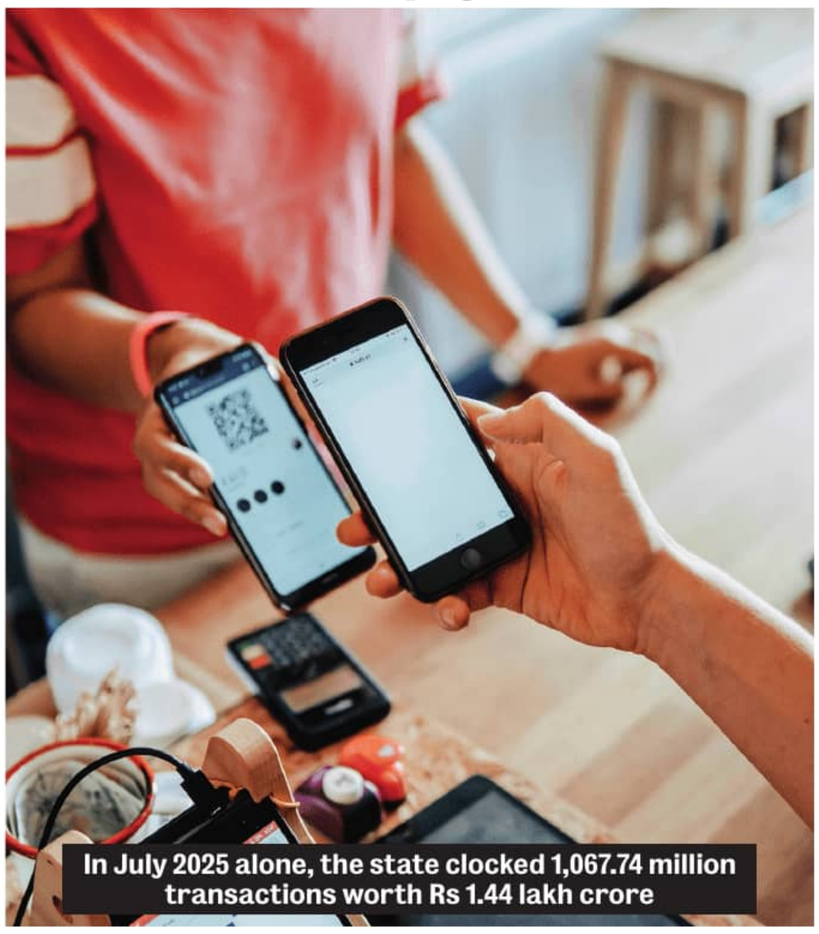

In July 2025 alone, the state clocked 1,067.74 million transactions worth Rs 1.44 lakh crore

Do you often rely on UPI to settle your bills? You're not alone. Karnataka has emerged as one of the country's biggest digital payment hubs, ranking second in UPI transactions after Maharashtra. In July 2025 alone, the state clocked 1,067.74 million transactions worth ₹1.44 lakh crore — a staggering figure that reflects how deeply UPI has become woven into the everyday lives of people across Karnataka's cities and towns.

According to an analysis of data from National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Karnataka accounted for 5.48% of India's UPI volume and 5.76% of its value, placing it ahead of larger states like Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu. Maharashtra retained the top spot with 1,905.45 million transactions, but Karnataka's growing share highlights the strength of its digitally savvy population, dominated by Bengaluru's tech-driven ecosystem.

Where UPI is most used

A deeper look at the merchant category classification reveals that groceries and supermarkets remain the single largest driver of UPI transactions across India, with a staggering 3,032.59 million payments valued at ₹64,882 crore. This is followed by fast-food restaurants (1,221.46 million transactions) and eating places and restaurants (1,153.40 million), demonstrating how small-ticket daily spends are fuelling the growth of cashless payments.

Telecommunication services accounted for 871.88 million transactions worth ₹21,629 crore, while fuel stations generated 612.49 million payments, reflecting how essential services have rapidly integrated UPI into their transaction systems. In the lifestyle and entertainment segment, digital gaming recorded 351.24 million payments worth over ₹10,076 crore, further proving the rising digital consumption trends in metros like Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Mangaluru.

Experts believe with UPI entrenched in urban households and business ecosystems, its next wave of growth will come from rural, semi-urban K'taka

Interestingly, UPI is not confined to retail spends alone. Categories like utilities (₹23,497 crore), securities brokers and dealers (₹61,080 crore), and government services (₹11,298 crore) also form a significant share, showing how the platform has evolved into a mainstream financial channel rather than being restricted to peer-to-peer or shopping payments.

India's overall UPI growth

Nationwide, UPI recorded 12.39 billion transactions in July 2025, with a total value of ₹7.34 lakh crore. Karnataka's contribution positions it as a frontrunner in India's digital finance journey, only behind Maharashtra. Experts believe that with UPI now entrenched in both urban households and business ecosystems, its next wave of growth will come from semi-urban and rural Karnataka.

Road ahead

As Bengaluru continues to lead India's fintech revolution, analysts predict Karnataka will remain at the forefront of UPI innovation. From groceries to government services, UPI has become an indispensable part of daily life — and Karnataka's numbers show it is setting benchmarks for the rest of the country.

Health department issues new rules to regulate deputation of staff

The Health and Family Welfare Department has issued new rules governing deputation of its officers and staff to other departments and institutions. Currently, many officials are deputed to medical education, medical college hospitals, corporations, autonomous health bodies, and other civil services, creating staff shortages in the parent department and affecting healthcare delivery. Moreover, deputed officials often remain in the assigned departments for extended periods instead of returning.

Under the new order, Group-A officers can serve on deputation for up to 3 years, Group-B for 4 years, Group-C for 5 years, and Group-D staff for 7 years. Deputed employees must be placed in posts equivalent to their original designation, without elevation to higher cadres or pay scales. Extensions beyond the stipulated period are strictly prohibited. Once the tenure ends, officials must return to the Health and Family Welfare Department through a counseling-based reassignment process. **— BMB**

SC upholds grace marks for contract teachers

The Supreme Court has upheld the High Court's order granting 5% grace marks per year of service (up to 40 marks) for teachers working on contract in Morarji Desai, Kittur Rani Chennamma, and Ekalavya residential schools, bringing to an end a 14-year-long legal battle. With this, thousands of contract teachers who had been waiting "like thirsty birds" for justice will finally receive appointment orders. The apex court dismissed the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society's (KREIS) special appeal against the High Court verdict, directing the government to implement the order within two months. The ruling ensures that eligible contract teachers will now be considered for recruitment with additional marks for their years of service, leaving KREIS with no option but to comply. **— BMB**

Phone network disruption causes angst

Telecom major Bharti Airtel faced a major service disruption on Sunday, leaving thousands of its customers across the country unable to make calls or use mobile internet. Subscribers reported widespread issues such as call drops, weak signals and even complete network blackouts. According to outage tracker Downdetector, the first complaints began in the first half of the day and peaked during noon, with more than 7,000 users reporting problems at the same time. Data from the platform showed that over half of the affected users faced calling issues, nearly a third struggled to access the internet, and the rest experienced a total network failure.

The outage was reported from several major cities, including Delhi, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Cuttack and Kolkata. This is the second major disruption for Airtel within a week. On August 19, a similar problem had impacted more than 3,500 users across India. As the services faltered, frustrated customers turned to social media to express their anger. **— IANS**

A dog lover holds a placard during a protest at Freedom Park, in Bengaluru, Sunday

Change is on the cards

No Vidhana Soudha image, Ashoka Pillar to feature on driving licence, registration certificate as uniform design hi-tech initiative rolls out

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From the end of September, Karnataka will introduce new hi-tech Driving Licence (DL) and Registration Certificate (RC) smart cards under the Centre's One Nation One Card initiative. In a major change, the cards will no longer carry the image of the Vidhana Soudha or other state-specific symbols. Instead, the national emblem, Ashoka Pillar, will appear on the top, making the design uniform across the country.

One nation, one design

Till now, states had the liberty to include local symbols, government buildings, and other features on DL and RC cards. The new system, however, allows only the national emblem and standardised text such as 'Indian Union Driving Licence' and 'Indian Union Vehicle Registration Certificate'. Officials said this change will help eliminate duplication, ease nationwide verification, and bring uniformity to transport documentation.

"It's like one nation, one card. Earlier, each state used different materials and formats for printing details, but with this initiative we are bringing in a uniform design across the country," a transport department official told BM.

The redesigned DL will carry essential details such as name, date of birth, address, and photograph. It will also include blood group, organ donation status, an emergency mobile number, and licence validity

High-quality smart cards

The new cards will be printed on polyvinyl material, similar to ATM cards issued by banks. They will be embedded with chips, making them durable, tamper-proof, and resistant to fading. Authorities say the improved quality will also reduce the risk of counterfeiting, which has been a persistent challenge with the older system.

Currently, smart cards are printed at respective RTO offices. With the new project, a centralised facility in Shantinagar, Bengaluru, will handle the printing for the entire state. The move aims to ensure accuracy, reduce delays, and prevent fake card circulation. To support the transition, over 1,100 new computers, printers, UPS systems, and generators have been ordered for RTOs, replacing machines that have been in service for more than 16 years.

Features of the new DL and RC

The redesigned Driving Licence will carry essential details such as name, date of birth, address, and photograph. It will also include blood group, organ donation status, an emergency mobile number, and licence validity. For commercial drivers, the DL will also display badge numbers.

Whereas, the Registration Certificate will feature details including registration number, validity, chassis and engine numbers, owner's name, address, emission norms, manufacturer, vehicle model, colour, seating and load capacity. Information on any loan provider will also be listed.

Easier verification

Officials believe the centralised, uniform system will make it easier for police and transport authorities to verify details during accidents, theft investigations, and traffic violations. The new systems aim to put a strong check on the production of fake cards. Traffic officials say that vehicle details can already be accessed and verified through the KSP app by simply entering the registration number.

They added that the new initiative will further support law enforcement while also making information more easily available to the public.

Woman dies after falling off bridge as car rams into bike

A 31-year-old woman died in Devanahalli traffic limits after a speeding car hit a bike and she fell off a bridge in the early hours of Saturday.

The victim has been identified as Netravati, who resided in Banaswadi with her husband and two children. According to the police, she was travelling with her husband Shivu from Banaswadi to Chikkaballapur when the mishap occurred around 12.30 am on Bachalli Bridge. Police said the car, coming the wrong way on a one-way stretch, rammed into their bike, throwing Netravati off the bridge.

She died on the spot, while Shivu escaped with minor injuries and was treated at a nearby hospital.

The car driver fled the scene. Devanahalli Traffic Police have registered a case and launched a hunt to trace the absconding driver. Further investigation is underway. **BMB**

4 cops booked after alleged lock-up death

Four days after the alleged lock-up death of a 59-year-old theft suspect at MK Doddi police station, four police personnel were booked on Saturday for dereliction of duty. The officials, ASI Nagaraju and constables Pratap, Lakshminarayana, and Somanatha, were on duty on August 20 when the suspect, Ramesh, was found dead in the station's washroom.

Ramesh, a habitual offender, had been arrested along with his associates Manju and Srinivas for allegedly stealing a temple donation box in rural Channapatna. The trio had been remanded to two days' police custody for further investigation and recovery.

According to police, Ramesh went to use the washroom, where he was later found dead. His family, however, alleged custodial torture, claiming he was beaten to death and hanged to pass it off as suicide.

Inspection and preliminary findings indicated suicide and officials ruled out foul play, adding that there was no lapse on the part of the staff. The case has now been handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to establish the exact cause of Ramesh's death.

'Grant of parole no concession, but a valuable right'

The Karnataka High Court has held that the grant of parole is not a mere concession but a "valuable right" of a convict, falling within the ambit of Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

The court stressed that authorities must apply their mind and pass reasoned orders in each case instead of relying on stereotyped police reports.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj made the observation while partly allowing a plea filed by Chotti Bee, who had sought 90 days of parole for her son, convicted in a murder case, to enable him to care for her during illness.

Although the prison authorities had verified and recommended parole, the request was rejected solely on the basis of a police report. The petitioner, therefore, approached the High Court seeking relief.

Court slams 'mechanical' police reports

The State government opposed the plea, arguing that since the convict's appeal against conviction was pending and an application for suspension of sentence/bail had already been filed, parole could not be granted.

However, the bench dismissed this reasoning, noting that parole and suspension of sentence stand on "different footings."

"While bail or suspension of sentence releases a convict during the pendency of an appeal, parole is granted for a limited period and has to be decided strictly in terms of Chapter XXXIV of the Karnataka Prison Manual," the court clarified.

On examining the police report, Justice Govindaraj observed, "A perusal of the police report indicates that it

is a mechanical report submitted without consideration of Chapter XXXIV of the Karnataka Prison Manual. A perfunctory rejection has been made, without applying mind to the actual facts."

The court further noted that it had come across several such reports which were "identically worded" and lacked due application of mind.

Parole linked to reformation

Emphasising the reformative aspect of punishment, the bench said that reintegration of convicts into society is a key objective. "Such reformation cannot be achieved if the convict is distanced from society. On release, the convict would also have to be integrated into society. This is why parole applications must be considered carefully," the order stated.

The court also directed the Director General of Police to look into the matter and, if required, provide training to officers on the provisions of Chapter XXXIV of the Karnataka Prison Manual to avoid repetition of such mechanical rejections.

Relief granted

Rejecting the State's objections, the High Court held that the rejection of parole in this case was unjustified. It partly allowed the petition and ordered the release of the convict on general parole for 60 days to enable him to look after his ailing mother. **BMB**

Road disintegrates into slush as widening project drags on

Commuters struggle on Aaduru–Bidarahalli stretch while BBMP, PWD play blame game; citizens forced to figure out temporary fix themselves

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The residents of Dwaraka Layout, Aaduru, Bidarahalli, Hirandahalli, and Rampura have been suffering a lot to commute on Aaduru-Bidarahalli Road that connects Avalahalli in Mahadevapura Assembly constituency. Whenever it rains heavily, the road between Aaduru and Bidarahalli becomes slushy, making it extremely tough for two-wheeler riders and motorists.

Despite repeated complaints and reminders, residents allege that the authorities have remained indifferent for years. The situation worsens, particularly near St Joseph's Church, where the road becomes dangerously slippery during rains. On Sunday morning, fed up with inaction, residents themselves picked up spades to clear the slush and make the road somewhat motorable for daily commuters. "We have already complained to the authorities about the condition of the road, but it has been in vain. The authorities must clear encroachments on stormwater drains to avoid flooding and waterlogging," said VP Krishna, Founder of KR Puram Constituency Association Federation.

According to residents, they had also taken up the matter with the Public Works Department (PWD), but without results. "Today, some of us removed the slush on our own. There was no flooding till last year. A few builders and people with vested interests dumped truckloads of sand and mud on the roadside," said Shashikant Naik, a local resident. He added that several school buses, including those from NPS, Landmark, Prestige, Takshasila, Sri Chaitanya, Narayana, and Oracle School, use this road daily, putting hundreds of schoolchildren at risk.

(Top) Some of the residents removing silt on the road on Sunday; (Below) An earth moving machine was used to free a school bus that got stuck in mud on the road last year

> **"We have already complained to the authorities concerned about the condition of the road but in vain. The authorities have to clear encroachments to avoid flooding and water logging** – VP Krishna, Founder, KR Puram Constituency Association Federation

Echoing similar concerns, M Sudhakar, a resident of Dwaraka Layout, said commuting has become hazardous. "It's tough for two-wheeler riders and even for school buses. We saw a two-wheeler rider skid and fall because of the slush. Last year, an earth-moving machine had to be deployed to pull out a school bus stuck

in loose mud. We want the authorities and elected representatives to fix this problem as early as possible," he said, expressing deep frustration.

Documents accessed by Bangalore Mirror reveal that the proposal to widen the road between Kothanur and Avalahalli via Byrathi, Bilishivale, Aaduru, and Bidarahalli was made many years ago. According to a BBMP Executive Engineer (Mahadevapura Division) report, a letter of intent (LoI) was issued, but the agency refused to sign the agreement as the tender had expired. A proposal for cancellation and retendering was sent for approval on April 22, 2015. However, no progress was made even after a decade, leaving residents in despair.

Meanwhile, a PWD assistant executive engineer claimed that the local MLA had instructed him not to proceed with the widening as the BBMP was supposed to take it up. "It seems there is a dispute over the TDR. The BBMP is responsible for the widening," the official said.

Sources said the BBMP began the land acquisition process for widening the road in September 2024. Will the civic body complete the process as per schedule and take up the much-needed project? For now, residents—especially two-wheeler riders, parents, and school-going children—can only wait and hope for a permanent solution soon.

BMRCL prepares pink line launch, blue line nears completion

BMRCL is gearing up to begin commercial operations on the Pink Line (Kalena Agrahara–Nagawara). For the initial phase, the line will receive primary power supply from Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited's (KPTCL) Khodays sub-station.

KPTCL will provide electricity to the Pink Line's Kothanur depot through underground cables laid via Avalahalli, Anjanapura, and Gottigere. BMRCL has urged the public not to carry out unauthorized digging or construction work in these areas, warning that such activities could lead to damage and serious safety risks.

Explaining the system, a senior BMRCL official said, "The Receiving Substation (RSS) provides the primary electricity supply required for metro operations. Typically, one RSS is set up at the beginning of a corridor and another at the terminal point. These substations play a crucial role in ensuring safe and reliable functioning of the metro's power system, which is vital for smooth train operations."

> **"The Pink Line's elevated stretch is expected to open by March 2026, with the underground section planned for September 2026** – BMRCL official

The 21.26-km Pink Line will be opened in two phases. Phase one, expected by March 2026, will cover a 7.5-km elevated section between Kalena Agrahara and Tavarekere,

with six stations. Phase two, scheduled for September 2026, will see the opening of a 13.76-km underground stretch from Dairy Circle to Nagawara, which includes 12 stations.

Currently, metro services in Bengaluru operate across 96 km, and the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) plans to add 40 km of new commercial routes by the end of 2026. Nearly 90% of work on the Pink Line is complete, with the corridor set to connect key junctions such as Cantonment, MG Road, Langford Town, Dairy Circle, and JP Nagar 4th Phase.

In terms of rolling stock, BEML will supply 138 coaches (23 train sets) for the Pink Line. The first prototype train is expected by October 2025 for testing and validation. By March 2026, 20 train sets comprising 120 coaches will be ready, ensuring sufficient capacity for the launch of services on the elevated section.

Meanwhile, work on the Blue Line, which will connect the city to Kempegowda International Airport, is nearing completion. The first phase of the 58.19-km corridor, from Rashtriya Military School to KR Puram, is expected to be ready by September 2026. The entire line, featuring 30 stations, is being built at an estimated cost of ₹14,788 crore.

— BMB

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Problems in your area?
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Non-functional lift

Shanthinagar

A lift on Double Road has remained non-functional for a long time, unattended and ignored. Residents seek urgent repairs for safety and convenience.

Drainage waste dumped

Marriamma Temple

BBMP contractors cleared drains near Mariamma Temple but left waste piled roadside. Locals fear clogging during rains and demand immediate removal.

Public health risk

Suranjan Das Road

BWSSB premises near Suranjan Das Road are being misused for dumping near drinking water tanks, posing serious health hazards.

Age no bar: NWKRTC told to hire widow

The Karnataka High Court has directed the North-West Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) to appoint a 48-year-old widow to a Group D post on compassionate grounds, despite her exceeding the prescribed age limit.

The petitioner, Lakshmavva from Gadag, lost her husband, an NWKRTC employee, and was left without any means of livelihood. With no children to seek employment under the scheme, she was the sole dependent. Soon after her husband's death, she applied for a job. However, her request was rejected as she was 45 years and seven months old at the time—slightly above the maximum permissible age of 45 years.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj, while allowing her plea, observed that the purpose of compassionate appointments is to ensure dependents are not pushed into hardship after an employee's death. "It is meant to secure the livelihood of the deceased employee's family and provide assurance that they will be taken care of," the court stated.

The judge also urged NWKRTC's Managing Director to review similar cases and consider framing a more humane policy that safeguards families in such situations. He emphasized that rigid application of age criteria defeats the objective of compassionate employment schemes, which are designed as social security measures rather than mere statutory processes.

The ruling offers relief to Lakshmavva, who otherwise faced an uncertain future without financial support. It also sets an important precedent for treating compassionate appointments as a humanitarian necessity, reinforcing the principle of providing security to employees' families after an untimely death in service. **–BMB**

Compulsory retirement of former judge upheld

The Karnataka High Court has upheld the compulsory retirement of former Civil Judge (Senior Division) KM Gangadhar, dismissing his appeal against the disciplinary action taken over a decade ago.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Joshi delivered the verdict on Saturday, rejecting Gangadhar's contention that the punishment was disproportionate. The bench observed that there was "no infirmity with either the procedure adopted or the punishment imposed."

Gangadhar was compulsorily retired on October 1, 2012, after an enquiry found him guilty of misconduct. The disciplinary action originated from a complaint lodged in 2007 by Dr B Indumathi, alleging that Gangadhar interfered in a police investigation and threatened officials with consequences if they pursued the case.

At the time, Gangadhar was serving as Civil Judge (Senior Division) and 13th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bengaluru City. According to the complaint, he warned police officers not to summon a woman named Anasuya and intimidated them during a 10–15-minute phone call. Evidence presented by the complainant and Inspector HT Jayaramaiah supported the allegations.

Following an enquiry conducted by the Registrar (Vigilance), the charges were proved, and the competent authority invoked Rule 8(vi) of the Karnataka Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1957, to impose compulsory retirement.

Gangadhar challenged the decision, arguing he merely advised the police not to harass Anasuya. His plea was first rejected by a single judge of the High Court on February 25, 2025. Persisting, he filed an appeal before the division bench, which has now dismissed it, affirming that the punishment was neither disproportionate nor procedurally flawed.

With this order, the disciplinary penalty remains in force, concluding Gangadhar's prolonged legal battle against his compulsory retirement. **–BMB**

City loses ₹4.37 lakh every hour to digital arrest con

Cybercriminals exploit city's tech-savvy population as victims fall prey to fake authorities using fear tactics; 1,004 cases booked this year

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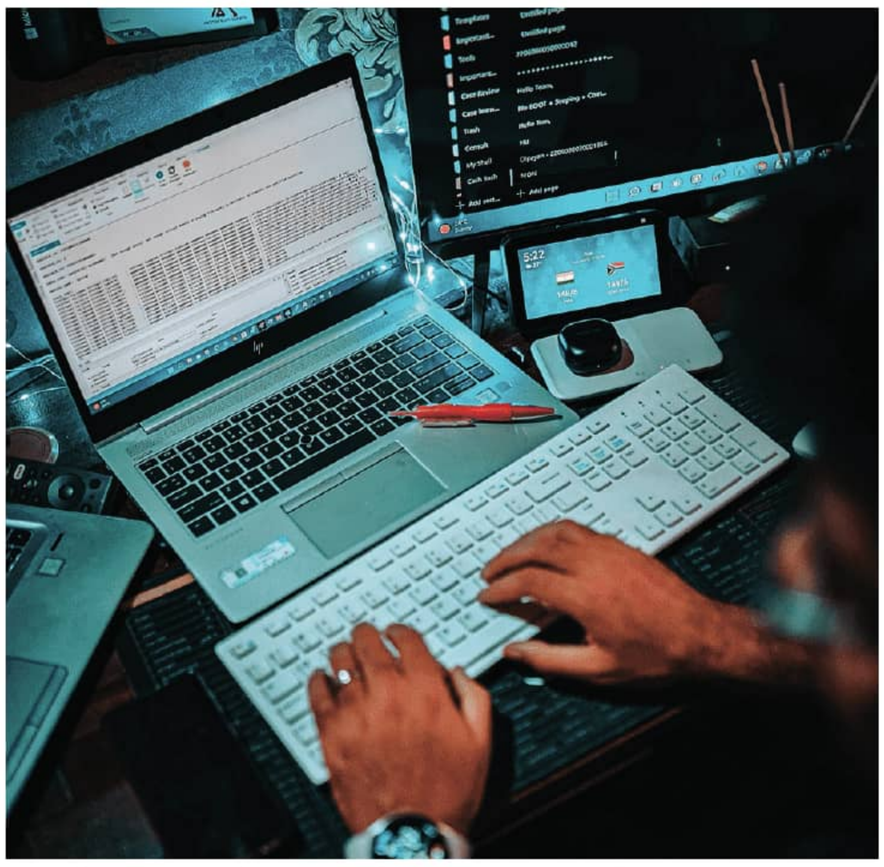
Bengaluru is paying a heavy price for the rising menace of digital arrest scams. In the last 18 months alone, Bengalureans have collectively lost ₹572.68 crore, averaging ₹4.37 lakh every single hour. Alongside the financial devastation, the city has recorded 1,004 cases during this period, which translates to almost three victims a day falling prey to cybercriminals posing as law enforcement authorities.

According to data presented in the Legislative Assembly by Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, 867 FIRs were registered in Bengaluru in 2024, and by mid-2025, an additional 137 cases had already been filed. This sustained surge has made the city the primary target for digital fraudsters, accounting for over 80% of Karnataka's total digital arrest cases.

The financial damage is staggering. Bengaluru alone lost ₹148.84 crore in 2024. In just the first six months of 2025, the losses soared to ₹423.83 crore. Overall, the 18-month period saw victims cheated of ₹572.68 crore — an average of ₹31.8 crore every month, or ₹1.05 crore a day. When broken down further, that means ₹4.37 lakh disappears from the city's wallets every hour.

Recoveries, however, remain dismal. Refunds were traced in only 190 cases last year and 30 cases so far this year, making it almost impossible for victims to recover their hard-earned money once it leaves their accounts. Authorities warn that the actual losses could be even higher, as many cases go unreported due to embarrassment or lack of awareness.



Fraudsters target Bengaluru's tech-savvy residents, posing as law enforcement officers and using fear tactics to extract massive sums from unsuspecting victims across the city daily

> **"City has lost ₹572.68 crore to digital arrest scams in 18 months, with 1,004 cases registered, accounting for over 80% of the state's total**
> –Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara

Other districts have reported cases too, but none match Bengaluru's scale. Mysuru saw 32 cases in 2024 involving losses of ₹72 lakh and 10 cases in 2025 with losses of ₹2.19 crore. Mangaluru registered 22 FIRs last year (₹90 lakh lost) and four cases this year, which cost victims ₹4.73 crore. While these numbers are concerning, they pale in comparison to Bengaluru's mounting losses.

Statewide figures reveal the menace is escalating rapidly. Karnataka recorded 210 cases in 2024, but by January 2025 alone, the tally jumped to 1,055 cases — a massive 402% rise. Conviction and recovery rates remain extremely low. Of the 1,055 FIRs filed last year, only 99 were solved. In January 2025, just 24 of the 210 cases were cracked.

Experts say Bengaluru is particularly vulnerable because of its tech-savvy, financially literate population that depends heavily on digital transactions. Fraudsters exploit this dependency by impersonating police officers or regulators and coercing victims into transferring money under the pretext of avoiding legal trouble. The fear and psychological pressure make people comply without verifying the claims.

Home Minister Parameshwara told the Assembly that measures are being taken to strengthen cybercrime units, increase manpower, and roll out awareness campaigns. However, the widening gap between rising losses and low-resolution rates has sparked concerns about whether enforcement is keeping up with the sophistication of scammers. Cybersecurity experts also stress the need for citizens to adopt stricter digital hygiene and verify any suspicious calls immediately.

While overall cybercrime cases in the state dropped from 22,472 in 2024 to 8,620 in January 2025, the surge in digital arrest scams shows how quickly fraudsters adapt. For Bengaluru, the numbers are chilling: every hour, ₹4.37 lakh vanishes, and every day, nearly three residents become victims — a stark reminder of the urgent need for stronger safeguards against digital fraud.

Betting case: MLA in ED net

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Sunday brought Congress MLA KC Veerendra, popularly known as "Puppy," to Bengaluru for further investigation in a money laundering case linked to illegal betting activities. The MLA, currently in ED custody, was flown in from Sikkim on Sunday morning under tight security arrangements. A special ED team received him at Kempegowda International Airport's Terminal-2, where strict security measures were in place to avoid any untoward incidents or media confrontation. Officials immediately moved Veerendra away from the media glare and took him to an undisclosed location for detailed interrogation to establish his local connections and financial transactions. A special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court in Bengaluru sent Veerendra to ED custody till August 28 after he was arrested by the central agency in Sikkim on Saturday.

The case relates to alleged illegal online and offline betting operations spread across multiple states. On Friday, the ED conducted extensive searches at more than 30 locations, including Chitradurga district, Bengaluru, and Hubballi in Karnataka, as well as Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Mumbai, and Goa, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Five Goa-based casinos—Puppy's Casino Gold, Ocean Rivers Casino, Puppy's Casino Pride, Ocean 7 Casino, and Big Daddy Casino—were also raided as part of the crackdown.

According to ED sources, Veerendra is accused of running multiple betting platforms such as King567, Raja567, Puppy's003, and Rathna Gaming, which allegedly handled huge sums of money through illegal channels. His brother, KC Thippeswamy, allegedly operates three Dubai-based entities—Diamond Softech, TRS Technologies, and Prime9 Technologies—linked to call centre services and Veerendra's gaming business. Additionally, the ED searched the premises of Anil Gowda, brother of Kusuma H, a former Congress candidate from Rajarajeshwarinagar. **–BMB & Agencies**

Karnataka issues safety SOP to prevent farm pond drownings

New guidelines mandate fencing, caution boards, and adequate safety gear around farm ponds in rural areas to ensure protection for children and senior citizens in villages

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Authorities instructed to release subsidies only after installing safety measures like fences, warning boards, and rescue gear at ponds

To prevent farm ponds from becoming death traps for children in rural areas, the Commissioner of Agriculture has issued a circular to Joint Directors of Agriculture, directing them to provide guidelines to farmers availing farm pond facilities under the Krishi Bhagya Scheme. The circular, dated August 11, emphasised the need for safety measures at farm ponds—locally called Krishi Honda—to protect children and senior citizens.

According to the circular, the issue of child safety was discussed during a meeting organised by the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) on July 9. Following the meeting, the Commissioner instructed that a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) be implemented by farmers owning farm ponds on agricultural land to prevent accidents.

"The measures must include fencing the pond with GI wire to prevent children from falling in. Farmers should also ensure the presence of floating devices like tubes, ropes, and caution boards at the site," the circular stated.

To enforce compliance, the circular made fencing mandatory for farmers to receive subsidies for constructing farm ponds. Additionally, authorities have been directed to sanction ₹2,000 to each farmer for installing caution boards bearing warnings such as "No Entry," "Danger," "Slippery," and "Swimming Prohibited" after inspection of the ponds.

> **"I wrote letters to take safety measures for children at PU colleges and residential schools; these are also necessary to prevent children from drowning in farm ponds**
> – Dr Thippeswamy KT, Member KSCPCR

The safety directive follows several tragic incidents in recent years where children and women drowned in farm ponds across the state. Two children drowned in a farm pond at Mirapur village in Chikodi taluk on November 28, 2016, while two more lost their lives in Petalur village of Mudhol taluk on October 23, 2017. Similarly, two women died in a farm pond at Maskiyaparapura in Raichur district on October 22, 2017. In the most recent case, three boys drowned at a farm pond in Hampasandra village of Gauribidanur taluk in May 2022.

Child rights activists have welcomed the government's move, terming it a much-needed step to prevent accidental deaths. "I wrote letters not only to the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture but also to the Director of the PU Board and the Secretary of the Department of Minorities, urging safety measures for children at PU colleges, hostels, and residential schools. Similar precautions are necessary at farm ponds," said Dr Thippeswamy KT, a member of KSCPCR.

Echoing this view, child rights activist Nagasimha G Rao stressed the importance of accountability for implementing the circular. "The government has issued a circular to prevent children from drowning in farm ponds, but it is crucial to define who will monitor its implementation," he said.

Rao suggested that the responsibility be given to local panchayats, particularly the Women and Child Protection Committees within each jurisdiction. "As Article 26 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child emphasises social security for every child, farmers must prioritise safety when constructing ponds. Panchayats should organize awareness campaigns and workshops for farmers, while the government provides resources. By working together, we can prevent such tragedies and ensure a safer environment for children," he added.

YouTuber questioned over temple video

YouTuber Sameer MD appeared before Belthangady police on Sunday in connection with a case filed over an alleged defamatory video about the Dharmasthala temple. Earlier, police had pasted notices at his rented house in Bengaluru and his residence in Ballari, asking him to appear for questioning. Sameer, accompanied by three lawyers, recorded his statement at the station. Anticipating arrest, he had moved the Mangaluru court for anticipatory bail, which was granted on Thursday, protecting him from detention. Sameer gained sudden fame after a viral video on Dharmasthala, which prompted the police to register the case. His bail plea was filed promptly when police action seemed likely, and the court's order enabled him to avoid custody. **— BMB**

ISRO tests Gaganyaan parachute system

ISRO on Sunday successfully conducted the first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-01) to validate the parachute-based deceleration system for the upcoming Gaganyaan mission. The end-to-end demonstration took place near Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, an ISRO official said. The crucial test was carried out in collaboration with the Indian Air Force, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard. The Gaganyaan project is India's ambitious human spaceflight programme, aiming to send astronauts into space and bring them back safely. The parachute-based deceleration system plays a vital role in ensuring the safe recovery of the crew module during re-entry and landing. This successful trial marks a significant step toward India's first manned space mission. **— BMB**

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Singing surprise

In a moment that stunned the Karnataka Assembly and delighted social media, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar broke into the RSS anthem "Namaste Sada Vatsale" during a heated debate on the recent stampede tragedy. What began as Leader of Opposition R Ashoka's taunt about Shivakumar once wearing RSS shorts turned into an impromptu musical twist, drawing desk-thumping approval from BJP benches and raising eyebrows across the House. The video, now viral, has sparked chatter that in Karnataka politics, even ideological sparring can sometimes hit the right note. Shivakumar, however, was quick to clarify that despite singing the RSS anthem, he remains a staunch Congressman and firmly rooted in his party's ideology.

Seat scuffle

Expelled BJP legislators Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, ST Somasekhar, and Shivarama Hebbar raised a ruckus over the seating plan at the back of the Assembly, slamming the allocation of phantom seat numbers. "We seniors got seats numbered 224, 225, and 226. But the Assembly only has 224 members—so where are 225 and 226? Clearly, those seats are bogus," Yatnal fumed. They demanded a reshuffle, insisting that opposition and regional party members be properly slotted in the front rows, especially after legislator Janardhan Reddy joined the BJP, leaving them awkwardly stranded as a mismatched opposition bloc.

Photo fiasco

"Don't throw flower garlands on our photo—my daughter's wedding is still pending!" joked Minister Byrathi Suresh during a spirited exchange of words in the Legislative Council. The banter began when Congress's Sharanagouda Bayyapur suggested providing drinking water to Mudgal town and quipped, "Make a statue of yourself, I'll do a milk abhishekam!" BJP's Bharati Shetty objected, asking, "Do you make statues of living people?" With a grin, Suresh clarified, "Here, garlands and milk on a photo or statue mean something else—I still have to marry off my daughter!" The Chairman stepped in laughing, saying, "Let's not take it that way," leaving the House chuckling at the playful camaraderie.

Sweet jest

During a lively council session recently, Chairman Basavaraj Horatti cracked a playful jab, asking whether N Ravikumar had called Minister Shivanand Patil the "Sugar Minister" or the "Fat Minister." The confusion erupted when Ravikumar, questioning the state of sugar factories, turned to Patil and said, "He's sweeter than sugar itself!" Not missing a beat, CT Ravi jumped up with a grin: "Sweeter than sugar? That's dangerous—he's a more perilous minister than sugar!" The chamber erupted in laughter at the cheeky wordplay.

Pontiff force

In a sharp intervention during a debate on education, MLC H Vishwanath claimed that his stint as Education Minister was cut short not by politics but by a section of powerful seers. He said his push for stricter rules in the department angered a few pontiffs, who united to oust him. Painting a grim picture, he warned that with a 40% shortage of doctors, crumbling schools, and stalled programs, Karnataka's education and health sectors are on the brink — and no state can progress when literacy and healthcare collapse.

Retro ride

Inaugurations don't usually come with nostalgia on two wheels — but Deputy CM DK Shivakumar made sure the new Hebbal flyover loop opened with a thump from the past. As CM Siddaramaiah waved the green flag, Shivakumar roared in on his refurbished Yezdi, the very same bike he bought as a college lad for ₹10,400. Registration number CEA 7684 — long forgotten and rusting was resurrected by a bike restorer, only to return in style. The crowd cheered as the DCM, once an avid biker, turned the official ribbon-cutting into a retro biker's parade, proving some rides never really grow old. **— Sridhar Vivan**

BM SIMPLY PUT

Today, we examine the nuts and bolts of Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025

Dangerous game

The Indian Parliament has passed a landmark law targeting online money games, betting, and gambling, aiming to protect users and regulate digital gaming. This explainer breaks down the key provisions, penalties, and broader impact of the new legislation.

What is the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025?

The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, recently passed by Parliament, is a landmark legislation aimed at encouraging innovation in e-sports and online social games while prohibiting harmful online money games. It balances India's digital growth with citizen safety, protecting youth and families from financial, psychological, and social harms.

Why was this introduced?

Over the last decade, India has witnessed a digital revolution through Digital India, UPI, 5G connectivity, Digital Public Infrastructure, and the semiconductor ecosystem. While these advancements brought immense benefits, the misuse of technology in online money gaming created risks such as addiction, financial distress, fraud, and even threats to national security.
The Union Government decided to promote positive gaming ecosystems like e-sports and skill-based social games, while strictly banning online betting and gambling platforms.

What does the Act promote?

E-Sports: Recognised as a legitimate sport. The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports will frame guidelines, establish training academies, and integrate e-sports into India's broader sports policy. Online Social & Educational Games: Recognised and supported by the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) and the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB). Such games must promote education, cultural values, skill development, and social engagement.

What does the Act prohibit?

The law strictly bans online money games, whether based on skill, chance, or both, along with their advertising and promotion across all media, and prohibits any related financial transactions through banks or payment gateways. It also outlaws betting and gambling activities such as poker, rummy, fantasy sports betting, lotteries, and satta/jua, safeguarding users from predatory gaming apps that exploit them with false promises of monetary gains, often resulting in addiction, debt, and family hardship.

How will the Act be enforced?

A National Online Gaming Authority will oversee implementation, tasked with registering and categorising online games, determining which qualify as "money games," handling complaints and grievances, and issuing guidelines, codes of practice, and compliance orders. The Central Government also has the power to block unlawful gaming platforms under the IT Act, 2000.

What are the penalties for violations?

The Act prescribes strict penalties: offering or facilitating online money games can lead to up to 3 years imprisonment and/or a 1 crore fine; advertising money games carries up to 2 years imprisonment and/or 2.5 crore fine; processing financial transactions for money games may result in up to 3 years imprisonment and/or 5 crore fine. Repeat offences face harsher punishments, with 3–5 years imprisonment and fines up to 20 crore.

How does this law protect citizens?

The law safeguards youth and families by preventing financial loss, addiction, and psychological harm from money gaming apps, strengthens national security by curbing the misuse of gaming platforms for money laundering, terror financing, and illicit communication, and ensures legal consistency by aligning digital regulations with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and state laws restricting physical-world betting and gambling.

What positive impacts are expected?

The government claims the law will boost the creative economy by expanding India's global footprint in gaming exports, design, and innovation, empower youth through healthy participation in e-sports and skill-based games, ensure a safe digital environment by eliminating predatory gaming practices, and position India as a global leader in responsible gaming regulation and innovation.

When and where did online betting begin globally?

Online betting started in 1996 in Antigua and Barbuda with the world's first licensed betting app. Since then, it has grown into a USD 105.5 billion industry in 2025, projected to reach USD 286.4 billion by 2035, with sports betting alone accounting for nearly 48%.

How did online gaming become popular in India?

India saw online gaming pick up in the early 2000s with PC gaming, later boosted by cheap smartphones and widespread internet. By 2016, users crossed 120 million, and by 2022, some states began officially recognising online gaming through regulations

Which states allow or ban online gaming till now?

Sikkim allows gaming only at internet terminals, Nagaland permits only licensed skill-based games, and Meghalaya allows both skill and chance-based games. In contrast, Assam, Odisha, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh have banned even skill-based online games.

Why has regulation been difficult?

Many operators argue that games like fantasy cricket require skill and generate employment, using this loophole to evade restrictions and keep the business running despite legal hurdles.

What is the new law passed by Parliament?

The Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 introduces strict rules banning harmful online money games while promoting e-sports and educational or social games, aiming to protect citizens and regulate the booming sector.

What are the economic concerns?

Industry voices caution that a complete ban could affect 400 companies, put 2 lakh jobs at risk, endanger 25,000 crore in investments, and reduce 20,000 crore in annual GST collections.

How widespread is betting in India?

The illegal betting market is valued at 8.3 lakh crore, cricket betting alone was worth 200 crore in 2023, over 34 crore Indians are involved during IPL seasons, and around 45 crore people lose nearly 20,000 crore every year.

What is the social impact of online betting?

Google searches for "gambling addiction treatment" and "rehabilitation" have surged, and in Hyderabad, a suicide prevention helpline reported a 60% increase in calls from online betting addicts, highlighting the human toll of the growing menace.

BM Finance Fundas

How is gratuity calculated as a part of CTC?

What is gratuity? When is it received?

Gratuity is a form of payment that employers make to their employees, acknowledging their loyalty, dedication and services rendered to the company. Gratuity is given to those with 5 or more years of service in one company. It is payable on the employee's superannuation, retirement, or resignation. It is also payable on the employee's death or disablement due to any accident or disease.

How is gratuity calculated?

Gratuity payouts are determined based on the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972. As per Section 4(2) of the act, gratuity payable is equal to last drawn monthly wage × 15 / 26 × Completed years of service. HR uses this formula to allocate gratuity in your offer letter.

How is gratuity shown in an employee's offer letter?

In the offer letter, 4.81% of your annual basic wages will be shown as gratuity. Suppose the annual basic salary of an employee is Rs 100. The monthly basic salary will be Rs 8.33 (Rs 100/12). Hence, the gratuity per year of service will be Rs 4.81, i.e., 8.33 X 15/26. The employer will have to pay the amount of gratuity within 30 days from the date it becomes payable to the employee.

Does the gratuity payable change every year?

Yes. The amount of CTC allocated towards gratuity is revised with every revision in basic salary. Basic salary is generally revised on an annual basis, after an employee undergoes an appraisal cycle. Gratuity is payable on the last drawn basic salary, including Dearness Allowance, which keeps changing as the employee progresses through the ranks.

Is it necessary to add nominees for gratuity payment?

Yes. Each employee who has completed one year of service shall make nominations for gratuity payments. An employee may, in his nomination, distribute the amount of gratuity payable to him amongst more than one nominee. However, note that if an employee has a family at the time of' making a nomination, the nomination shall be made in favour of one or more members of his family. Any nomination made by an employee in favour of any other individual other family member will not be considered valid.

–ET Online

Most damaged houses were in low-lying localities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

damage, mainly in developing layouts and informal settlements vulnerable to flooding. Bommanahalli (27), Yelahanka (63), West Zone (45), and Dasarahalli (9) rounded off the list, with officials noting that the damage figures may rise as more field assessments are completed, the data said.

Road infra setback

The city's road network has taken a severe beating, with 878 roads spanning over 343 km damaged due to rainwater stagnation, erosion, and washouts. Bommanahalli Zone topped the chart with 147.20 km of road damage—the highest in the city—reflecting the heavy toll in rapidly urbanising peripheries where drainage and road-laying have lagged behind the pace of construction.

Yelahanka (37.80 km) and Dasarahalli (34.35 km) also reported extensive damage, particularly in arterial stretches linking industrial and residential hubs. Mahadevapura (13.07 km) recorded a smaller total in terms of length, but officials warn that several critical IT corridor roads have been rendered unsafe. The South Zone reported damage to 135 roads stretching 29.79 km, severely impacting mobility in densely populated areas.

Drainage and planning failures

Urban planners and civic experts say the damage pattern mirrors Bengaluru's chronic infrastructure shortcomings—particularly inadequate stormwater drainage, poor road quality, and construction in flood-prone zones. The hardest-hit areas overlap with known flood-prone maps, indicating that preventive measures have either not been implemented or have failed to withstand the intensity of recent rains, an urban planner said. A BBMP official said, "The BBMP has initiated temporary road patching and is coordinating with the electricity and water boards to restore basic services in affected pockets."

However, residents and civic activists are demanding a long-term resilience plan to prevent repeated losses during monsoon spells.

DKS hits out at BJP, rejects 'misleading images'

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday rejected "false and misleading" social media claims that he was made to stand outside a jeep during the Congress-led Voter Adhikar Yatra in Bihar, accusing BJP-linked handles of running a "smear campaign".

In a post on 'X', Shivakumar, who is also the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president, said the image being circulated was taken before he joined Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in the jeep that led the yatra to the Circuit House in Purnia.

"It's unfortunate (but not surprising) to see BJP-affiliated handles obsess over photo angles, seating arrangements, and who greeted whom-instead of addressing the real issue: vote chori," he wrote.

Shivakumar, who participated in the yatra on Sunday, also asserted that Congress is committed to protecting Kannada pride and fostering harmony. "Kannadada kattaalu sididedre, kaligoonu kedabahudu kadu niddire (if guardians of Kannada rise in anger, even the arrogant may lose their sleep)," he said in a veiled warning.

The Voter Adhikar Yatra, led by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, is aimed at highlighting what the Congress calls the BJP's attempts to subvert democracy and 'steal mandates' through electoral malpractices.

Shivakumar quipped that instead of "spending all their energy on photo manipulation," the BJP should spend "even 10% of that energy talking about stolen mandates."

"We at the Congress Party, believe in Mohabbat Ki Dukaan. You should drop by sometime - it might just change you," the Deputy CM said in his post. **PTI**

Women's team to head to Vizag for World Cup prep

Ahead of the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup this year, the Indian Women's Cricket Team will undergo a skill-based week-long conditioning camp in Visakhapatnam, starting August 25.

The location is strategic, as only Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, and Sneh Rana from the squad have prior experience playing at the ACA-VDCA Stadium, having done so back in 2014, according to ESPNcricinfo.

India is scheduled to play two major matches in Visakhapatnam: first against South Africa on October 9, followed by Australia on October 12. Limited experience at venues like Visakhapatnam, Guwahati, and Indore has been a key talking point ahead of the World Cup.

Earlier on Friday, Navi Mumbai replaced Bengaluru as one of the tournament venues, which could benefit the Women in Blue, as they have played extensively there over the last three to four years in both international cricket and the Women's Premier League.

The skill-based conditioning camp was initially planned for Bengaluru but was shifted to Visakhapatnam after the Karnataka State Cricket Association was unable to secure state police approval for hosting matches at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The camp will include two intra-squad day and night practice matches before the team heads to New Chandigarh for the ODI series against Australia, starting September 16.

Following the 50-over series, the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side will travel to Bengaluru for two World Cup warm-up games against England (September 25) and New Zealand (September 27) before moving to Guwahati for their opening ICC Women's World Cup match against Sri Lanka on September 30. **ANI**

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Roopesh GL, #3085, Prestige Bagamane Temple Bells, RR Nagar, Bangalore 560098, changed my daughter name from Disha R to Disha Roopesh

I, Mitesh Kumar Jayanna R/o No.4, 3rd A cross, 18th main, 1st phase, Btm Lyt, 2nd stage, Bengaluru 560076 have changed my minor son from Rudra Kumar to Krivam Miyash. He shall be called by this name for all purposes

I Nandini Goddumari W/O, Murali Goddumari R/o No 78 Mathru Nilaya 2nd Cross Hm Nayak Road, Jai Maruthi Nagar Nandini Layout Bengaluru - 560096 have changed my name to Veera Nandini Tadimarri Lakshminarayana.

I, Dhivya Manogaran, D/o. Manoharan, W/o. Shashidhar Mahalingam, R/o. # 83, Suma Nivas, 1st C Cross, RMV 2nd Stage, 3rd Block, Bangalore 560054. I had changed my name to "Dhivya Manoharan" for all purposes vide affidavit no - IN-KA24857469872379X.

I S Ratna Kumari W/O, Ex Late Sgt Ramu Govindarajan R/o No 46 Hillside Meadows Ms Palya Vidyaranyapura Bangalore 560097 have changed my name to S Rathnakumari.as per affidavit dated 21/08/2025

GALLERIA

BON VOYAGE

Natyanjali Kala Sangama, Bengaluru

to USA

led by Guru Vidhushi Amrutha Shetty, is set to dazzle global audiences with performances by Kum. Kavana Gowda, Kum. Sahithya & Kum. Ananya

at the NAVIKA World Kannada Summit on August 30th 2025 at Dr. Renuka Ramappa Bhavana, Orlando, Florida, USA, and again on September 7th 2025 in New York.

We take pride in their efforts to spread Kannada culture and heritage worldwide."

Guru Vidhushi Amrutha Shetty

Bennett & Coleman THE TIMES OF INDIA

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13 tiger deaths in 5 years, conviction in 0 cases

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

some cases, tiger death cases, enquiry reports have also not been submitted. Offenders get too many chances to escape," said a wildlife conservationist. More often than not, carcasses of wildlife, including tigers and elephants, are discovered late and in a highly decomposed state.

"When detected late, it gets difficult to ascertain the cause of death. In such cases, the department labels it as natural death," said a wildlife activist.

Not difficult terrain

Experts also highlight that most of the tiger deaths due to unnatural causes have happened in Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, and BRT. It is puzzling because these reserves do not have difficult landscapes in most parts. The majority of these landscapes are flat land and can be accessed on foot. Give efficient patrolling, carcasses should be discovered in time.

Late discoveries are mainly due to sloppy patrolling and ineffective use of MSTrIPES. They opine that the Monitoring System for Tigers: Intensive Protection and Ecological Status (MSTrIPES) platform by NTCA can be used more effectively. The platform uses modern technology to assist forest watchers and guards in effective patrolling, assesses ecological status, and mitigates human-wildlife conflict in and around tiger reserves.

MSTrIPES uses Global Positioning System (GPS), General Packet Radio Services (GPRS), and remote sensing to collect information from the field, create a database using modern Information Technology (IT) based tools, and analyze the information using GIS and statistical tools to provide inferences that allow tiger reserve managers to better manage their wildlife resources.

Move it along

A fast-track court for the speedy disposal of forest and wildlife-related offenses is another suggestion by conservationists.

"If this is the situation of tiger death, imagine other cases of encroachment, timber logging, etc. Thousands of forest and wildlife offense cases have been filed in the state, and hearings of these cases are pending in the Supreme Court, High Court, and district courts. This is when new cases are being registered every year. The slow disposal rate impedes conservation efforts," said an activist.

According to the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD), as many as 72,072 forest offence cases under various categories, such as encroachment, sandalwood, red sandalwood, wildlife, rosewood, and others, are pending disposal. Between April 2024 and March 2025, nearly 5,000 new cases were registered.

HEALTH TIP: Drink only boiled or filtered water, eat freshly prepared home-cooked meals, and maintain strict hygiene practices to avoid cholera

Adding protein-rich meals a few times a week to your diet can help repair your thyroid function

Stressed? Drink some water

Hydration may be your best defence against stress, new study shows

Most people know they should drink more water, but our new research reveals an unexpected consequence of falling short: it could be making everyday stress significantly harder to handle.

Our study, published in the Journal of Applied Physiology, found that people who drank less than 1.5 litres daily showed dramatically higher levels of cortisol – the body's primary stress hormone – when faced with stressful situations. The finding suggests that chronic mild dehydration may amplify stress responses in ways we're only beginning to understand.

We tested healthy young adults by dividing them into two groups based on their usual fluid intake. One group drank less than 1.5 litres daily, while the other exceeded standard recommendations of roughly two litres for women and 2.5 litres for men. After maintaining these patterns for a week, participants faced a laboratory stress test involving public speaking and mental arithmetic.

Both groups felt equally nervous and showed similar heart rate increases. But the low-fluid group experienced a much more pronounced cortisol surge – a response that could prove problematic if repeated daily over months or years. Chronic elevation of cortisol has been linked to increased risks of heart disease, kidney problems and diabetes.

> **Individual water needs vary based on age, body size, activity levels and climate. Guidelines can only provide useful targets**

Surprisingly, the under-hydrated participants didn't report feeling thirstier than their well-hydrated counterparts. Their bodies, however, told a different story. Darker, more concentrated urine revealed their dehydration, demonstrating that thirst isn't always a reliable indicator of fluid needs.

The mechanism behind this stress amplification involves the body's sophisticated water management system. When dehydration is detected, the brain releases vasopressin, a hormone that instructs the kidneys to conserve water and maintain blood volume. But vasopressin doesn't work in isolation; it also influences the brain's stress-response system, potentially heightening cortisol release during difficult moments.

Double burden

This creates a physiological double burden. Although vasopressin helps preserve precious water, it simultaneously makes the body more reactive to stress. For someone navigating daily pressures – work deadlines, family responsibilities, financial concerns – this heightened reactivity could accumulate into significant health harms over time.

Our findings add hydration to the growing list of lifestyle factors that influence stress resilience. Sleep, exercise, nutrition and social connections all play roles in how we handle life's challenges. Water now emerges as a potentially underappreciated ally in stress management.

The implications extend beyond individual physiology. In societies where chronic stress is increasingly recognised as a public health crisis, hydration emerges as a surprisingly accessible intervention. Unlike many stress-management strategies that require significant time or resources, drinking adequate water is straightforward and universally available.

However, our research doesn't suggest that water is a cure-all for stress. The study involved healthy young adults in controlled laboratory conditions, which cannot fully replicate the complex psychological and social stressors people face in everyday life. Hydration alone cannot address all aspects of real-world stress. We need long-term studies to confirm whether maintaining optimal hydration genuinely reduces stress-related health problems over years or decades.

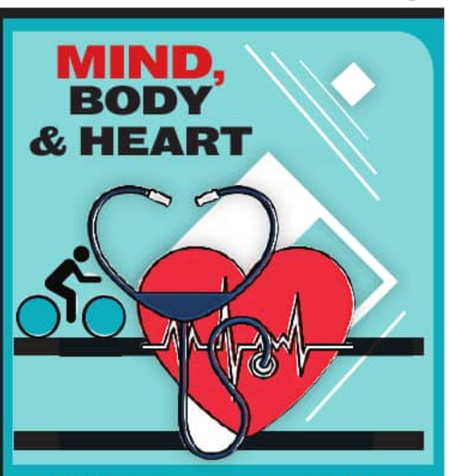
Individual water needs vary considerably based on age, body size, activity levels and climate. Guidelines provide useful targets, but tea, coffee, milk and water-rich foods also contribute to daily fluid intake. The key is consistency rather than perfection.

A simple check involves monitoring urine colour: pale yellow typically indicates adequate hydration, while darker shades suggest increased fluid needs. This practical approach removes guesswork from an essential daily habit.

Good health stems from accumulated daily choices rather than dramatic interventions. Although proper hydration won't eliminate life's pressures, it might help ensure your body is better equipped to handle them. In a world where stress feels inevitable, that physiological advantage could prove more valuable than we've previously recognised.

Water remains essential for life in ways that extend far beyond basic survival. Our research suggests it may also be essential for managing the psychological demands of modern life, offering a simple but powerful tool for supporting both physical and mental resilience.

(By Daniel Kashi and Neil Walsh, Liverpool John Moores University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Niacinamide

What is it

Niacinamide (a form of Vitamin B3) is like that multitasking friend who somehow has time to do everything—from calming breakouts to brightening dull patches. Whether you're battling acne, oiliness, or dark spots, this ingredient can slide seamlessly into your skincare routine. Here are ways to use it:

1. Start With A Serum

The most effective way to use Niacinamide is through a concentrated serum (usually 5–10%). Apply it after cleansing and before moisturiser to target acne, redness, and pigmentation. Think of it as your daily skin-strengthening shot.

2. Mix It Into Your Moisturiser

If you have sensitive skin, ease into Niacinamide by using a lightweight, easy to absorb moisturiser that already has it. This gives you soothing hydration plus the benefits of B3 without overwhelming your skin.

3. Pair It With Sunscreen

Niacinamide + SPF = your skin's power couple. While sunscreen shields you from UV rays, Niacinamide helps reduce the damage caused by past sun exposure.

4. Use It To Calm Acne

Thanks to its anti-inflammatory properties, Niacinamide helps reduce redness and irritation from breakouts. It also regulates oil production, which means fewer clogged pores over time.

5. Fade Dark Spots & Hyperpigmentation

Consistency is key here – daily use of Niacinamide can fade dark spots, melasma, and acne marks, giving you a more even-toned complexion.

6. Balance Oily Skin

If midday shine is your constant struggle, Niacinamide can help regulate sebum production. This makes your skin look fresh, while also minimising the look of pores.

-Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

High-waisted Vs mid-rise jeans: Which is better for your body shape?

We can hardly be surprised that high-rise jeans dominate runways and our wardrobes. They shape your figure by nipping in at the waist and lengthening your legs, along with the vintage glam factor they bring to every day. High-rise styles in an hourglass shape will fit snugly in all the right places. Opt for stretchy skinny ones or tailored flares not just to show off definition but also for a hint of drama.

If you are pear-shaped, high-waist jeans will draw attention upwards and provide great proportions. Dark washes and wide-legged styles are gorgeous and can easily elevate your look.

Mid-Rise ror ease

Prefer something less structured? Mid-rise jeans are a sweet spot – a traditional fit that sits below the waist and flatters straighter body shapes, and even rounder bodies.

Those with an apple body shape should take advantage of how mid-rise jeans gently structure the body without bulking out from the middle. Choose relaxed, straight-legs or tapered jeans for clean lines.

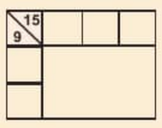
Short Or Tall?

Those with petite frames tend to love a high-rise moment. Visually, it adds inches, especially if you wear either cropped tops or tuck your blouse in. Go for a straight or kick-flare cut and you keep the look lean and lengthened. Monochrome always works the best so consider denim-over-denim for an even taller look. On the other hand, women with height will have issues with ultra-high waists because the ultra-high waist bottom can cut the torso short (and that makes it a little tricky!). A mid-rise with a long inseam will help in achieving that balance without any compromises.

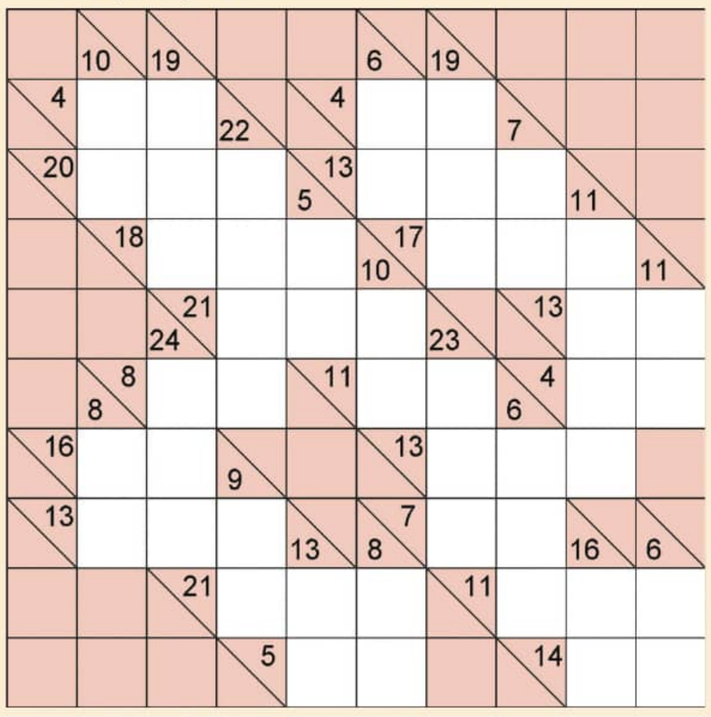
-Paul Karn, Femina

Kakuro

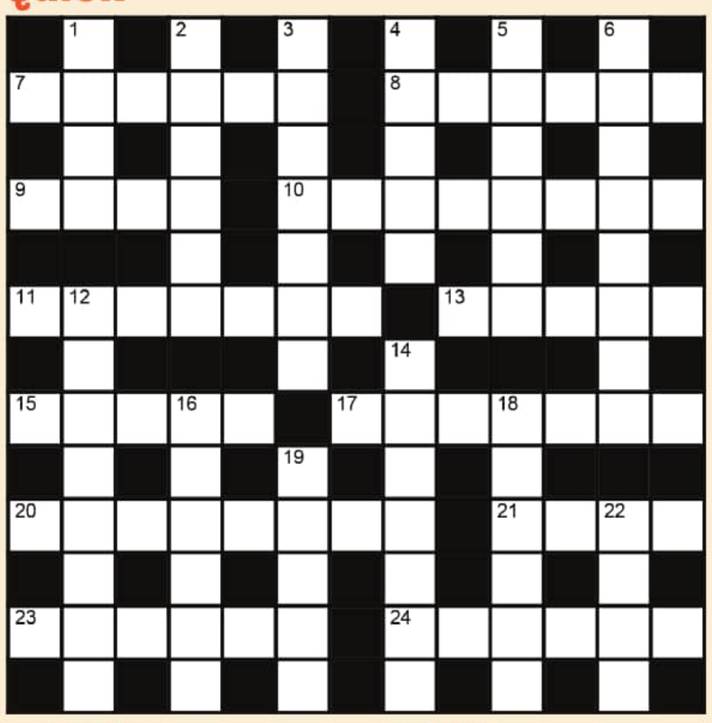
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Incentive (6)
8 A flowering plant (6)
9 Local headgear ? (4)
10 Associating, comparing or likening (8)
11 Is present in large numbers (7)
13 Charged atom (5)
15 Tourist destination which used to be the capital of the Vijayanagar Empire (5)
17 Put into other words (7)
20 Ex-P.M. of India (1,1,6)
21 Mr. Shastri to his friends and fans? (4)
23 Despot (6)
24 Required or needed (6)

DOWN

1 On your own (4)
2 Environment or surroundings (6)
3 Reduce in rank or position (7)
4 In a frigid manner (5)
5 Make less hard? (6)
6 Traitor (8)
12 Shiner (5-3)
14 Matures, softens with age (7)
16 Not singular? (6)
18 Royal seat (6)
19 Scrape harshly (5)
22 Turn off course (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: I EQUALS T

IPN DHQN ALQ DQUBN UJ VLI IPN NWNDIQUD DPGUQ, OHI IPN PURP DPGUQ.

Linemaro

You impact me like a camera; every time I look at you, I smile

Mindchow

The magic of first love is our ignorance that it can end

Joke of the day

It's funny how the Chinese made a language entirely out of tattoos

Loop

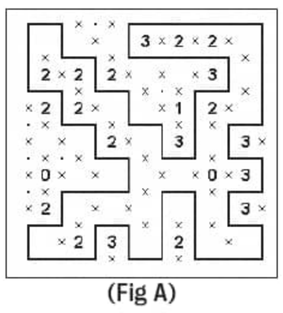
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

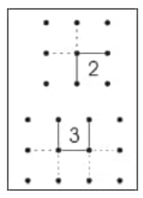
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

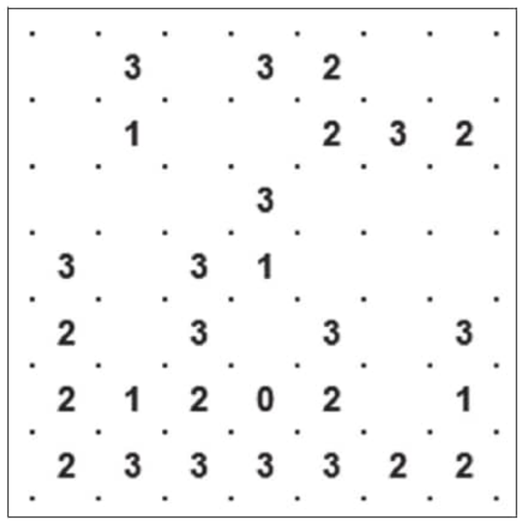
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



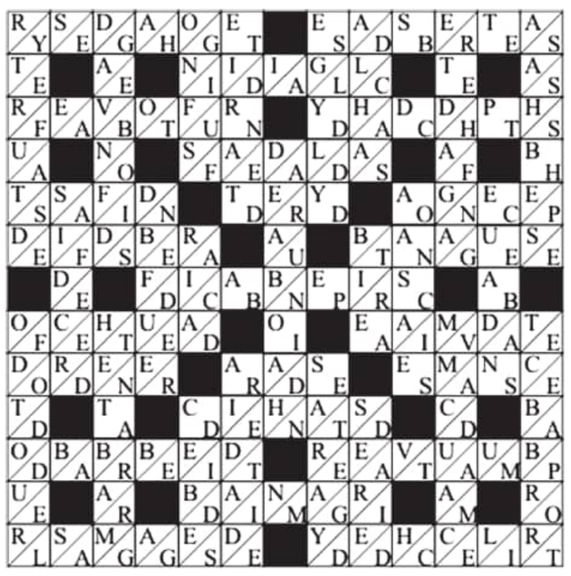
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



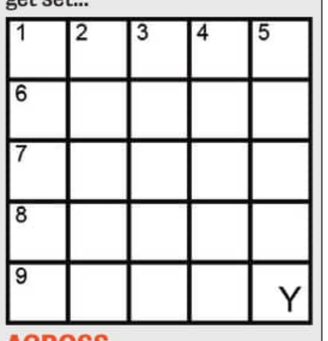
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Bar ad; 6 Agree;
7 Aside; 8 In sec;
9 Hot my

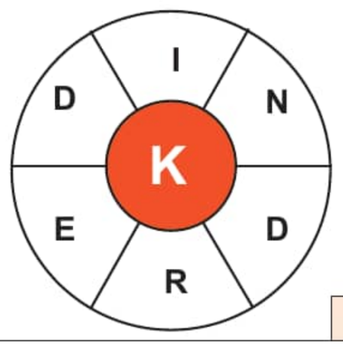
DOWN

1 Dimes; 2 Road I;
3 Tange; 4 Cab he;
5 Years

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the pattern?

3		23	6		7
	41			28	
7		8	2		13
4		19	14		3
	45			47	
17		5	11		?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **07** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

5			8			7		4
	1	4					9	
6			1					
				6	4	1		
1		7		3		6		8
		6	9	1				
					3			7
	8					4	5	
7		3			5			1

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 18

1 3 5 9

Medium = 1

2 3 8 9

Hard = 20

1 1 4 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

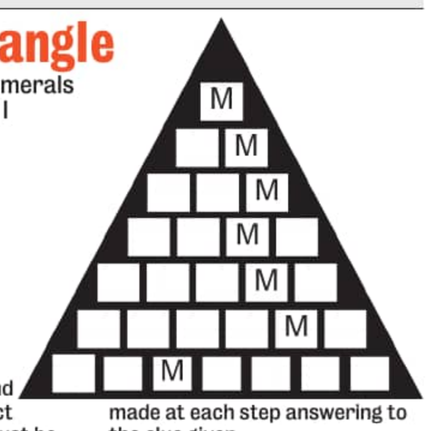
Differences: 1. Arm is lower. 2. Stripe on sleeve is higher. 3. Door handle is lower. 4. Hat is different. 5. Book is lower. 6. Boy's collar is higher.

Riddler

What 6-letter word has the same pair of letters in spots 1 and 5, a different pair in spots 2 and 6 and contains a 'u' in between?

Alpha triangle

1 1000 in Roman numerals
2 I think therefore I
3 Male sheep
4 Weapons
5 Causes injury to
6 Seraglios
7 Hinders



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip

Dist. by King Features
Nobody repairs stone. It's time for you to join the Iron Age.
FERROUS WHEEL
BIZARRO.COM
Wayno & Piraro 5-19-25
©2025 BIZARRO STUDIOS

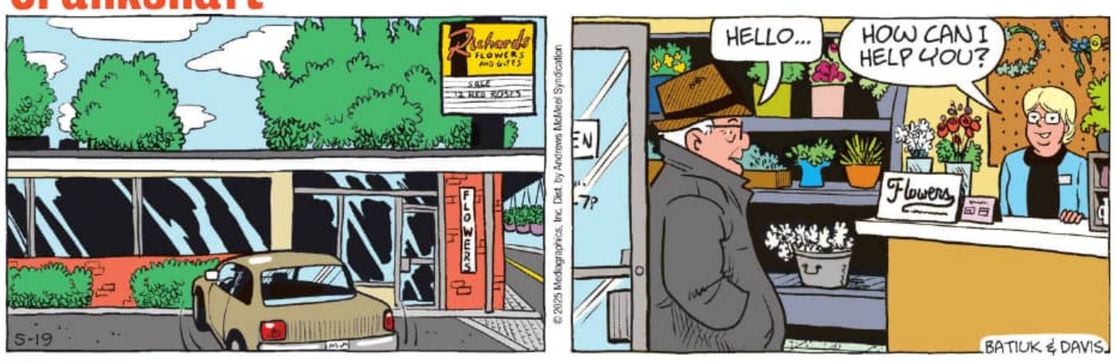
Diamond Lil

And now, a word from the National Council on Sucker Punches:
OOF
This has been a word from the National Council on Sucker Punches.
www.creators.com
©2025 creators.com 5/19

Hart of the city

TRISH FROM THE YEARBOOK COMMITTEE SAYS IT'S TIME TO NOMINATE SUPERLATIVES.
WHO YOU ARE IN THE YEARBOOK IS WHO YOU ARE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!
YEARBOOKS ARE BASICALLY MAGICAL TOMES SIMILAR TO THE DEATH NOTE FROM THE HIT ANIME AND MANGA SERIES "DEATH NOTE."
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU KNEW THAT SERIES.
IT'S OCCULT-ADJACENT. I GOTTA KNOW.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@DCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
With elders' blessings, patience returns, helping you refocus on goals. Performance improves in both work and home matters. A balanced approach to spending and saving strengthens your financial security.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
A sense of dissatisfaction may leave you feeling dull, delaying ongoing projects. Lovebirds should avoid marriage decisions for now. Job seekers might face setbacks in interviews.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Inner strength brings happiness and short-term investment gains. Stronger ties with superiors could lead to recognition or promotion. Your social reputation grows, and short work-related travel is possible.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
The Moon's blessings bring progress today. Hard work may secure a higher position and better performance. Meeting an influential person could guide future growth. Domestic harmony strengthens.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Happiness returns as situations improve. A visit to a spiritual place provides inner peace, and charitable acts bring joy. Overseas opportunities for education or career may arise. Couples and singles may find suitable matches.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Low energy and health concerns may bother you. Arrogance could strain relationships, so maintain humility. Avoid new investments as they might prove unproductive.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Finances look favorable with possible returns from investments and recovery of stuck funds. Confidence rises as hidden challenges are overcome. Singles may meet someone special, possibly at work.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Health improves as old ailments fade. Good news from relatives may uplift your mood. Support from colleagues boosts your work reputation. Positive legal outcomes are likely.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Challenges test your patience today. Seek elders' guidance for wise decisions. Concerns about children's academics may arise, leading to short trips. Avoid speculative investments.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Efforts may feel unrewarding, causing dissatisfaction. Read all contracts carefully before signing. Property or asset investment is possible, but trust your intuition before finalizing.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Family gatherings and social events keep you engaged, helping you expand your network. Short work trips may occur. Disputes with siblings settle, and subordinates help complete tough tasks.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Family get-togethers bring joy and strengthen bonds. Your humility enhances your image among friends and relatives. Spending on luxury items or décor may elevate your social status. Good news from a close relative brightens your day.

KIDZONE

Adityaraj, Bengaluru

Harshitha, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= 1⅚÷6, 6-(⅝*⅘)
= 1⅚*10⅗-(⅔)
= 10⅝-3½
= (10-54) /36
= -44/36
= -11/9

BULL'S EYE
dike, drink, inked, inked, kind, KINDRED, rink

FAST FIVE

D	R	A	B	A
E	A	G	E	R
I	D	E	A	S
S	I	N	C	E
M	O	T	H	Y

RIDDLER
church, deluge, inulin or recure

STRIKE OUT

R	E	D	H	O	T	S	A	B	R	E	S
E	E	N	I	A	L	L	E	A		
F	A	V	O	U	R	Y	A	C	H	T	S
U	O	S	E	A	L	S	A	H			
S	A	I	D	D	R	Y	O	N	C	E	
E	I	D	E	R	A	T	A	G	U	S	
F	E	T	E	D	I	A	I	M	A	T	
O	D	E	R	R	A	S	S	A	N	E	
D	A	C	E	N	T	S	D	A			
D	A	B	B	E	D	R	E	V	A	M	P
E	A	D	I	N	A	R	M	O			
R	A	G	G	E	D	D	E	C	E	I	T

QUICK

E		L			E					
T	Y	R	A	N	T		W	A	N	T	E	D
E		R		A		O			E	
I	K	G	U	J	R	A	L		R	A	V	I
G		L		G		L		H				
H	A	M	P	I		R	E	S	T	A	T	E
L				E		M				A		
A	B	O	U	N	D	S		A	N	I	O	N
E				A		Y		E		C		
T	O	P	I		R	E	L	A	T	I	N	G
L		L		G		I		F		R		
M	O	T	I	V	E		C	R	O	C	U	S
S		M		D		I		S		T		

MENSA PUZZLE
19. Divide the diagram in half, horizontally and vertically, to give 4 squares, each 3x3. In each square, add up the 4 outer numbers, and put the result in the space in the centre.

QUOTE UNCODE
The cure for crime is not the electric chair, but the high chair.

SUDOKU

5	3	9	8	2	6	7	1	4
2	1	4	3	5	7	8	9	6
6	7	8	1	4	9	3	2	5
8	2	5	7	6	4	1	3	9
1	9	7	5	3	2	6	4	8
3	4	6	9	1	8	5	7	2
4	5	1	2	8	3	9	6	7
9	8	2	6	7	1	4	5	3
7	6	3	4	9	5	2	8	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
M, Am, Ram, Arms, Harms, Harems, Hampers.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 3 + 5 + 1 = 18
Medium
3 - 2 x 9 - 8 = 1
Hard
5 x 4 + 1 - 1 = 20

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Record number
Nandamuri Balakrishna gets a place in the World Book of Records UK for 50 Years in Films

Neha on trolls

Neha Dhupia recently opened up about the criticism she faced after getting pregnant before marriage and how the experience became the driving force behind her initiative Freedom to Feed. Neha revealed that when a pregnancy test confirmed she was expecting, she and actor Angad Bedi decided to marry. Soon after, they welcomed their daughter, Mehr. But the conversation around their wedding, she recalled, was filled with judgment. "I married Angad, and after six months we welcomed our daughter. But the biggest conversation around our wedding was, 'How did the baby come in six months?" she told Mid-day.

She said that no one had the right to dictate, question, or assume when a person should marry or have a baby.

–ETimes

Fake account

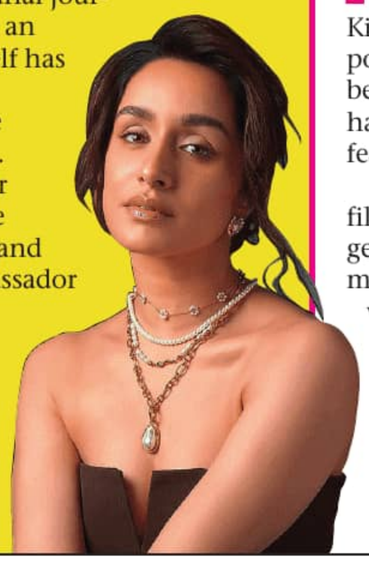
Bollywood actor Shraddha Kapoor appealed to LinkedIn after she was unable to use her account as it was flagged as fake.

The 38-year-old actor, whose last on-screen appearance was in horror comedy "Stree 2", shared a note on her Insatagram story on Saturday. Tagging the networking platform, Kapoor said she has been facing issues, while making a profile on the site.

"Dear LinkedIn @linkedin_in, I'm not being able to use my own account because LinkedIn thinks it's fake. Can someone please help me," she wrote.

"Account is made, premium and verified but no one else can see it. Want to start sharing my entrepreneurial journey, getting an account itself has become a jouney," the actor added.

The actor serves as the co-founder and brand ambassador the jewelry brand Palmonas, a brand founded in 2022.



–PTI

Stick to boundaries

Creepy fan outs Deepika's baby's face despite actress' obvious unease, sparking outrage online

Bollywood's power couple, Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh, have always been fiercely protective of their daughter Dua Padukone Singh. Since her birth on September 8, 2024, the couple has made no attempt to reveal her face to the public and expressed their wishes to maintain the little one's privacy. But despite their efforts, a recent video circulating online has exposed the little one's face, sparking outrage among fans.

In the viral clip, Dua was seen sitting on her mother Deepika's lap, with her face clearly visible for the first time. The footage also captures a visibly uncomfortable and upset Deepika asking the person behind the camera to stop recording the clip, as it gave a full view of her daughter.

The video that was soon posted online went viral, with netizens excited to see the baby's face for the first time. However, as the post was rapidly shared across platforms, many fans stepped up to condemn the uploader. One fan urged, "Hey please delete the video as both Ranveer and Deepika have strictly restricted pictures of their daughter." Another wrote, "I don't think you should be posting this, especially if the parents haven't given consent. Doesn't matter if she's a celeb baby—she's too young and this is morally wrong." A third added, "Deepika specifically said she doesn't want her child's face out there and yet a so called " fan" felt the need to video it even though you can see Dp not happy in the clip and you still shared it anyway."

–ETimes

Steamy scene alert

Fans of the hit Netflix series Heartstopper are buzzing with anticipation following a new tease from star Kit Connor. The actor, who portrays Nick Nelson in the beloved LGBTQ teen romance, has hinted that the upcoming feature film finale will feature "quite a steamy scene." As filming for the final chapter gets underway, Connor's comments suggest that the story will reach an emotional and intimate conclusion, raising the stakes for the characters.

In a recent interview with fellow actor Louis Partridge for VMan, Kit Connor shared a glimpse into the demanding nature of the final shoot. He playfully noted that his days involve a lot of physical activity, stating he is "always doing something that involved throwing myself to the ground." His co-star, Joe Locke, who plays Charlie Spring, also previously commented on the final chapter, promising that it will be a "really good way to wrap up the story."

While filming is underway in London, fans have already managed to catch glimpses of Kit Connor and Joe Locke on set. These sneak peeks have only amplified excitement for the finale. The series is based on the graphic novels by author Alice Oseman, who has also hinted that the conclusion will be different from what fans might expect. This has led to widespread speculation about how the on-screen story will bring the characters' journeys to a close.

–ETimes

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Movie with message

Geethapriya Suresh Kumar, a well-known educationist from Bengaluru, has been busy with the shoot of her second movie Aparichithe. Geethapriya debuted in Sandalwood with Thayavva three months ago. Now, the shooting of Aparichithe is in progress in and around Ramanagara.

Geethapriya said that she got a chance to play a heroine in a Kannada movie when she was 18-and-a-half-years old but could not grab that opportunity as she did not have awareness about movies. "We came to Bengaluru for education. We became busy with establishing and maintaining educational institutions in the city. I grew up watching Dr Rajkumar's movies, and art movies directed by Girish Kasaravalli and others," said Geethapriya. Geethapriya said that while being busy with educational institutions, she was waiting for the right time and opportunity to act in movies. "My husband Suresh Kumar is very supportive. He bankrolled Thayavva. Now, he is supporting my second movie."

First take

The first scene of Bhaira was shot on Thursday at Panchamukhi Ganapathi Temple in the city. Lovely Star Prem sounded the clapboard for the first shot and wished good luck to its cast and crew.

Mahesh Siddhu, known for Goolihatti and Saagutha Doora Doora – makes a comeback after a gap of five years. Akul N, who worked as choreographer for more than 200 Kannada movies, is handling the megaphone for this movie and it is his fourth movie as a director. Amith Poojari, in association with Ashok DN, is bankrolling the movie under the Kushi Kanasu Creations banner. "The movie is about anti-social and rowdy elements in Bengaluru. The movie revolves around an innocent youth who is harassed and exploited by rowdies. It is about how the hero gets his revenge. The movie has emotion and romance apart from four action scenes," Akul said.

The director thanked stunt choreographer Mahesh for agreeing to work for this movie. "The movie also has a political element that highlights how greedy and corrupt politicians exploit people, during the elections," he said.